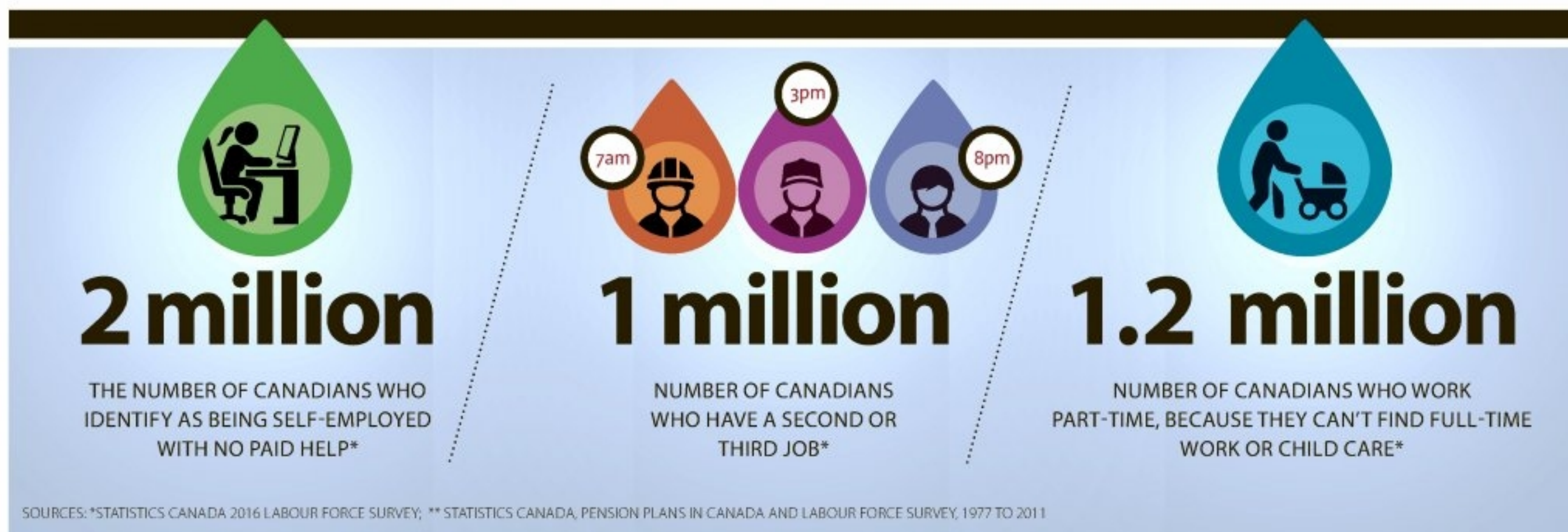


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made me so tired.
And so happy.
- Tina Fey



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MORE THAN JUST SAFE

Councillor wants to
ensure Syrian refugees
thrive in Edmonton

metroNEWS

Basil Abou Hamrah, a refugee who's been in
Edmonton for just over a year. KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO



Saving lives or making money

PUBLIC SAFETY

Tables turned as photo radar the one getting monitored



Kevin
Maimann
Metro | Edmonton

An Edmonton photo-radar critic is rejoicing as the Alberta government announced it is reviewing the practice across the province to make sure it's being used for safety and not as a "cash cow."

Transportation Minister Brian Mason said Tuesday he wants to see justification for why photo radar is used in certain spots.

"It's about time, that's for sure. It's getting way out of hand," said Jack Shultz, who runs the Cash Cow Extravaganza campaign, which rallies people to hold signs in front of photo-radar locations to warn drivers.

"I'm glad that our work's be-

ing noticed and that something's actually going to, maybe not be done, but at least they're looking into it."

Mason said the review started three months ago and the government will review revenue figures to see how much money is being received by municipalities and other stakeholders.

Gerry Shimko, executive director of Edmonton's office of traffic safety, said the city is "quite prepared" to work with Mason.

He said the city is transparent about its photo radar and uses a data-driven, evidence-based process to determine the locations.

The city's Motor Vehicle Collisions Report released Thursday shows collision injury rates dropped in 2016 to the lowest they've been in 15 years.

"You're looking at a direct link between both mobile and fixed enforcement that's contributing to reduction in crashes in Edmonton," Shimko said.

Mason hopes to have the review completed by the fall.

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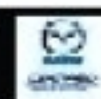
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Alberta launches Sexual Violence Action Plan

COMMUNITY

Centres created initiative, a first of its kind in west



Kevin Maimann
Metro | Edmonton

When Dara Sutton braved a court full of strangers and the man who sexually assaulted her six years ago, she felt powerless.

"You have to stand in front of, often men, and tell them what has happened. And then someone else, the defence counsel, then comes to you and tries to dismantle what you remember," she said.

"You're asked very poignant questions and you must answer them as such, and you're interrupted, and they intentionally confuse you. So it is an incredibly violating experience."

Sutton was told the best she could hope for was a peace bond. In the end, her offender walked free.

Sutton now helps other sexual assault survivors as a member of the Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services (AASAS), which unveiled Alberta's first Sexual Violence Action Plan with backing from the provincial Status of Women Ministry Thursday.

The strategy is led by sexual



Dara Sutton is a sexual assault survivor and helped launch a sexual violence action plan on May 11, 2017. KEVIN TUONG/METRO

assault centres and aims to transform attitudes on sexual assault and expand accessible treatment for survivors and perpetrators, with the ultimate goal of preventing sexual violence from happening in

the first place. Part of that entails educating students, police officers and judges.

Sutton hopes the plan sets wheels in motion so survivors don't have the same disheartening experience with speak-

ing out. "I believe once you know more, you do better," Sutton said.

Brad Cunningham with AASAS shared a similarly difficult court experience.

He was sexually abused by

"I believe once you know more, you do better."

Dara Sutton

his uncle at age 11 and kept it secret for years, until his brother came to his house when they were both adults and told him he was also abused.

It turned out several of their cousins had the same experience.

The men took his uncle to court, only to have the judge give him 23 months of house arrest, during which the offender was still allowed to leave the house for work.

"(Speaking out) is hard on the victim, it is hard on the victim's family, it is very hard on the community," Cunningham said.

In recent weeks, the government has passed a law to give survivors more time to bring claims forward, legislated to allow survivors of domestic violence to break their lease, developed resource cards for police to give to people who report sexual violence. On top of that they funded an educational play about consent, and funded grants for training of provincial court judges around sexual assault.

+ COMPONENTS

The Alberta Sexual Violence Action Plan has four main components:

1. Prevention: AASAS CEO Debra Tomlinson says sexual assault prevention education is needed across all ages and in all communities. "Every Albertan needs to be able to recognize sexual violence, to understand that it's a crime, and to know where to go for help," she said.

2. Intervention: Crisis response, counseling, police and court support all need improvement, Tomlinson said. Survivors are reaching out for help like never before, and she said demands need to be met, noting "regional gaps" are present in rural areas.

3. Outreach: Getting help is especially difficult for marginalized people, who are also at greater risk of sexual violence, Tomlinson said, and services need to be accessible to everyone.

4. Leadership: Tomlinson said governments, businesses and community members all need to play a role. "Everyone is responsible for being part of the solution."

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'We need to stay connected'

IMMIGRATION

Councillor calls for city study to address issues facing Syrians



Jeremy Simes
 Metro | Edmonton

A year and a half after the first of hundreds of Syrian newcomers landed at the Edmonton airport, a city councillor wants the city to study how they're faring, as advocates warn they continue to face big hurdles.

"If we don't respond to these challenges, there's going to be that increase in poverty," said Coun. Michael Walters on Thursday, "and an increase in poverty comes health-care and criminal-justice costs — all the negative things."

"We have an opportunity to avoid some of that here."

In two weeks, Walters will ask for support from city councillors to task administration with figuring out how well Syrian refugees are doing in the city,



"We can't just welcome them and feel good about ourselves."

Mohamed Huque

Mohamed Huque says Syrian refugees face lengthy wait times to find affordable housing, especially homes large enough to fit families of up to 10 people. Many also continue to face barriers to learning essential English language skills. KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

and what Edmonton can do to make their lives easier.

"It's good to know how these folks are doing, and see any gaps in service or issues that may have arisen," he said. "I've been hearing a lot of cases of post-traumatic stress disorder among families."

Edmonton is now home to up-

wards of 1,500 Syrian refugees, most of whom fled their homeland in the wake of a brutal civil war now in its sixth year.

But it hasn't been exactly the smoothest transition for all newcomers, according to Mohamed Huque, executive director of the Islamic Family and Social Services Association.

Huque said Syrian refugees face Edmonton's lengthy waitlist to find affordable housing, and it becomes particularly challenging to find homes large enough to fit families of up to 10 people.

"What they have to resort to is finding a place on the open market," he said, noting many

can't afford \$1,700 in rent for bigger accommodations. "The city, province and federal government have a role to play in figuring out our housing solution. I feel that's top of mind."

On top of that, refugees also encounter long waits to get into English classes — a language required to land a career in Edmonton, said Basel Abou Hamrah, a refugee who now works as a community connector with the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers, which helps new Edmontonians make a home in the city.

"There are lots of things, but we need more," he said, noting the city could increase funds for more tutoring lessons at the Edmonton Public Library.

For Huque, the city could play a large role in providing funds to agencies working with people on the ground.

"It's supporting organizations like ours and others on the front lines," he said.

Walters said that's the intent of his motion: to see how the city can collaborate with groups.

"We can't just welcome them and feel good about ourselves," he said. "We need to stay connected to what we've done."

POLICE

Mother charged in baby's meth overdose

Edmonton police have charged a 31-year-old mother with second-degree murder in the connection with the death of her 11-day-old daughter.

On March 29, officers responded to an address near 72 Street and 83 Avenue after receiving a report of a baby not breathing.

Police said paramedics transported the baby girl to hospital where she was pronounced dead.

Toxicology reports confirmed she had died from a lethal overdose of methamphetamine, which could have been received orally or anally, according to police spokesperson Scott Pattison. He said the medical examiner believes the dose of meth couldn't have come from the woman's breast milk.

Michelle Rice, 31, has since been charged with second-degree murder. Pattison said police weren't aware of Rice prior to the arrest.

He said he expects Rice to appear in court sometime next week. JEREMY SIMES/METRO

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Kaos, Kazoo, Kai: Puppies get names

RCMP

**Out of 21,000
contest entries,
13 monikers
for shepherds**

The puppies have names!

The RCMP Police Dog Service Training Centre in Alberta received close to 21,000 entries in their contest to name the first 13 German shepherd puppies to be born at the centre this year.

All names had to start with the letter K. For multiple entries of the same name, a draw determined the winning entry.

The names are: Koda, Kai, Kullu, Kage, Kammo, Kato, Kayla, Kazoo, Kate, Kaos, Kaya, Knight and Karma.

The 13 winners — one from each province and territory — will each receive an eight-by-10-inch laminated photo of the puppy they named, a plush dog called Justice and an official RCMP baseball cap.

"Thank you to everyone who



RCMP puppy Kaos. CONTRIBUTED

entered the contest during this very special year in which we celebrate the 150th anniversary of Canada," said Insp. Akrum Ghadban, the officer in charge of the dog training centre.

"We received numerous fantastic suggestions."

RCMP police service dog teams search for missing or lost people, track and apprehend criminals, remove illicit

drugs from the streets, detect explosives and search for evidence used in crimes.

The training centre in Innisfail is where all RCMP police dog teams in Canada are trained.

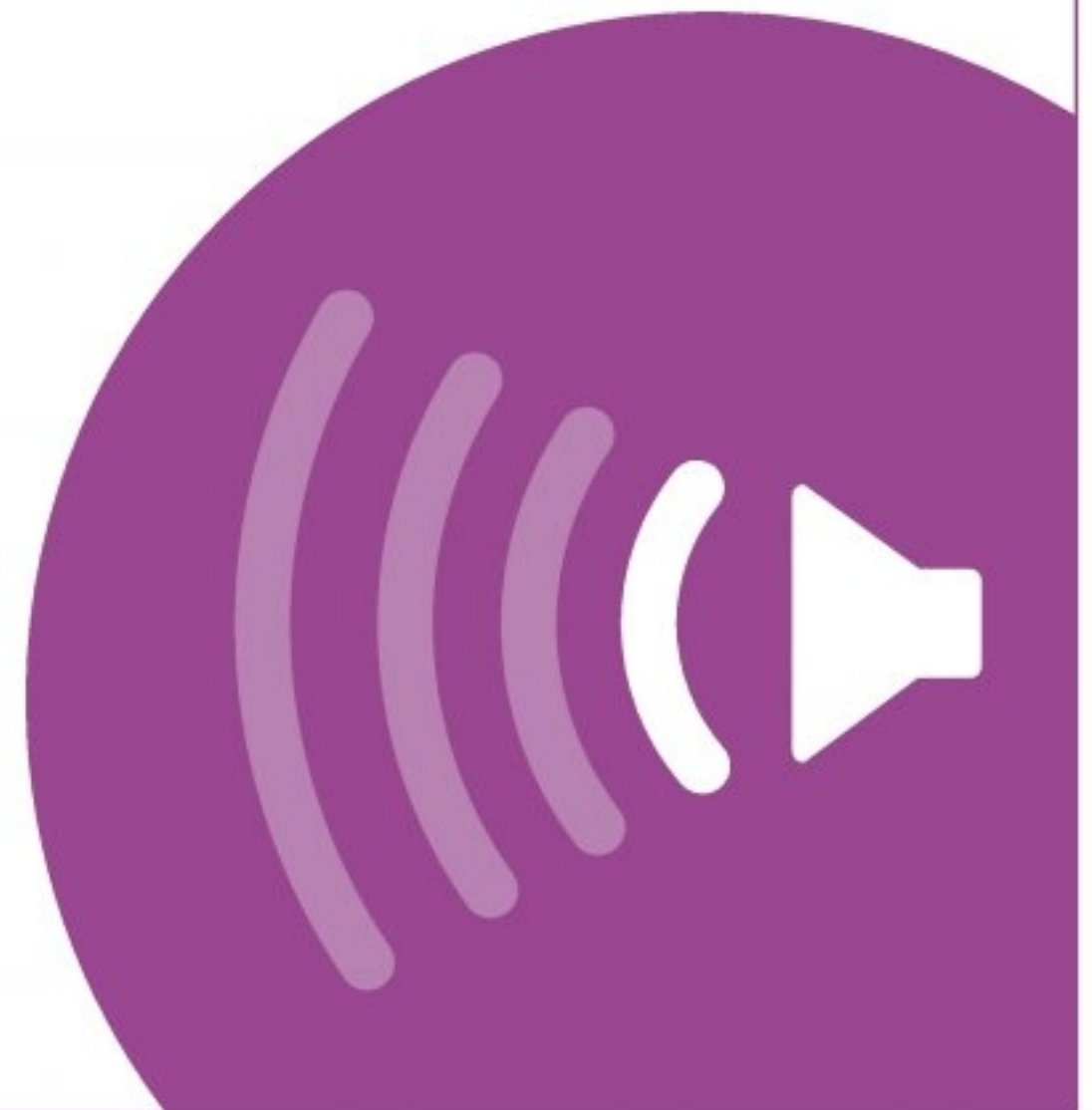
Ninety-four per cent of the German shepherds working today as RCMP service dogs were born at the centre as RCMP's police dog breeding program.

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**New app will
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**Omar
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Metro | Edmonton

A new walking tour app aims to shine light on the historical and cultural significance of some of Edmonton's most well-known buildings.

Launched by Friends of Rutherford House Society in collaboration with Digital Fractal Technologies, the app will provide an interactive digital tour through Edmonton landmarks such as the University of Alberta campus, the river valley and the Alberta Legislature.

The app was created with the help of a \$10,000 grant

from the Edmonton Heritage Council.

"It seemed like a good way to try and give people a chance to learn about the early days of the Alberta government," said Friends of Rutherford House Society director Jon Reay.

"We try and make it fun and connected to things that people see every day ... people know there's a legislature there, but how much do they really know about it?"

Rutherford House, the former abode of Alberta's first premier, Alexander Ruther-

ford, is the starting point of the first tour, which takes users on a walk around the main buildings of the original campus, such as the Tory Building, Athabasca Hall and Pembina Hall.

"We're looking for ways to increase awareness of the house and Rutherford, and the importance to Edmonton more broadly," Reay said. "So a walking tour is an actual physical connection that shows it's not just a house ... he was really critical to starting and creating the university."

The establishment of the University of Alberta was a seminal point in Edmonton's development, which is one reason why the society decided to use it for their first tour.

"It's a big deal for Edmonton that we have the university ... what would Edmonton be without it? Perhaps a much smaller provincial capital," Reay said.

The tour takes about 30 minutes to complete and spans

**People know
there's a
legislature there,
but how much do
they really know
about it?**

Jon Reay



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Jon Reay has created a walking tour app for historical buildings across the U of A Campus.

KEVIN TUONG/METRO

two kilometres. Those who complete all nine stops unlock a bonus feature. The tour is fully wheelchair accessible.

Reay said part of the bene-

fit of a phone application is they can tweak it and add new features over time.

"If people have good ideas for walks, it's a more inter-

active thing than just a printed map that you follow."

To find the app, search FRHS Walks in iOS or Android application stores.

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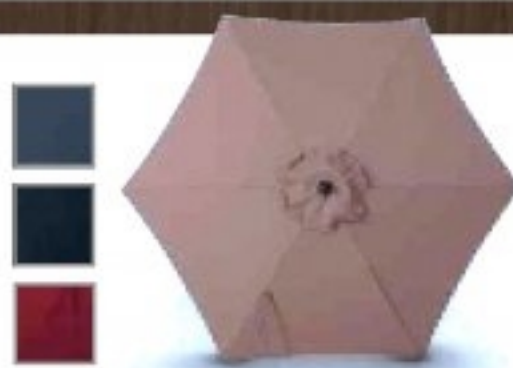


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Indoor dog park struggling

PETS

Increases in costs, rent leaves owner short on funds



Kevin Maimann
Metro | Edmonton

Edmonton's only indoor dog park has fallen on hard times.

Lucky Donkey opened a year ago in Old Strathcona and now it's struggling to survive after a busy winter.

Park owner Gabriel Tay said a decrease in visits, coupled

with an increase in rent, has left her unable to keep up with costs.

"I'm really proud of it, I'm proud of the work that I've put in it. So it's hard to let go and it's hard to be in this place right now," she said.

Tay named the park for her dog, Donkey, a tiny Chihuahua that refused to go outside in the winter.

She ran out of her own money for the project by winter, but in December, business "exploded overnight" and the park was able to sustain itself through March.

But the extra business also incurred extra costs.

"I went from 20 new dogs

a week to 80 new dogs a day. It was substantial," Tay said.

"So I needed a new cleaning system that was not cheap, and I needed new air purifiers that were pretty expensive."

Those are one-time costs, at least, and Tay is confident she can add more amenities like a swimming pool to boost summertime attendance.

But in the meantime, she's set up a GoFundMe page to raise \$50,000 to catch up on rent.

The space has a ball pit, agility equipment and lots of room for dogs to run around on astroturf.

Owners can come in and hang out with their dogs —



It's hard to let go and it's hard to be in this place right now.

Gabriel Tay

prices start at \$15 for a single entry — and Tay also offers hourly dog sitting so people out shopping on Whyte can drop their dog off.

"People share a lot of information in here," she said. "It's a neat community of dog owners that know each other and like each other."



Gabriel Tay and Donkey are hoping to raise money to keep Edmonton's only indoor dog park open through the summer.
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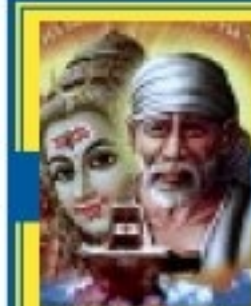
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Brace for storm of the century every 10 years: PM

CLIMATE CHANGE

Canada needs to build to be more 'resilient,' Trudeau says

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is sounding the alarm on the frequency and intensity of natural disasters in Canada, which have pushed Ottawa's bills for federal help to \$360 million a year since 2011.

The numbers clearly suggest a dramatic escalation in the frequency and severity of natural calamities, a theme Trudeau echoed Thursday after embarking on a helicopter tour of flood-ravaged western Quebec.

"We're going to have to understand that bracing for a 100-year storm is maybe going to happen every 10 years now or every few years," the prime minister said after his helicopter tour with Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard. "That means as we look to rebuild our communities, our homes, our infrastructures, we're going to have to think about



Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard and Gatineau MP Steve McKinnon look on as PM Justin Trudeau speaks to media after a tour of a flooded area of Gatineau, Que. THE CANADIAN PRESS

what we can do to rebuild better, to rebuild in ways that are going to be more resistant, more resilient to the unpredictability we are now living."

Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale also said Canadians will have to get used to climate change-fuelled disasters, and quickly — including by planning buildings and communities to minimize the risk of damage in the first place.

"The objective should be, rather than expecting to spend so much after the fact cleaning up, we should look for all of those opportunities to invest in mitigation and adaptation before the fact so that the losses will be minimized," Goodale said.

Since the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements program was launched in 1970, it has handed over \$4.1 billion to the provinces to help foot the

recovery bill in the wake of 240 storms, fires, and spring floods.

Almost half of it — \$1.8 billion — was since 2010, says the March report, which does not include figures for at least 17 events that occurred since 2014 because they hadn't yet been designated as eligible for assistance. Fully one-fifth of the eligible disasters took place between 2010 and 2014.

Rivers and lakes between Gatineau and Montreal are currently at 50-year peak levels, flooding more than 4,100 residences and forcing 3,000 people from their homes. Hundreds more are affected in Ontario communities along the Ottawa River.

The Disaster Financial Assistance program ensures Ottawa pays for up to 90 per cent of the clean up and recovery from eligible natural disasters — and a review of the program last year shows costs have risen.

Between 1970 and 1995, the average annual payment under disaster financial assistance was \$10 million. Between 1996 and 2010 it was \$110 million and between 2011 and 2016 it was \$360 million. THE CANADIAN PRESS

ELECTION 2019

Canadian spies look for election 'vulnerabilities'

The Communications Security Establishment has begun a promised review into the risks of foreign interference in the 2019 election, Torstar has learned.

CSE, Canada's signals intelligence and cyberdefence agency, is conducting a "risk assessment" into how vulnerable Canadian elections are to foreign hacking and information operations.

The review was ordered by the Liberal government in February, as the scope of Russian meddling in the 2016 U.S. presidential election was being made public by American intelligence agencies.

"CSE has been asked to provide a threat assessment of the cyber threat environment as it relates to the Canadian democratic process, including the electoral system," said Ryan Foreman, a spokesman for CSE.

The review is unlikely to focus on the security of the actual vote, which still relies on pens and paper rather than electronic voting. The greater risk is likely the kind of information campaigns seen in the U.S. and the recent French presidential election.

In both countries, Russian-backed hackers have been accused of releasing damaging information about candidates

in support of rivals friendlier to the Kremlin.

U.S. intelligence officials have publicly asserted that the information campaign was an explicit attempt to discredit Hillary Clinton and support President Donald Trump.

In France, newly-elected President Emmanuel Macron's team told the New York Times they experienced similar hacking attempts — but set up dummy email accounts with fake documents to confuse the hackers. A cache of nine gigabytes worth of Macron's team's documents, with mundane authentic documents mixed in with the fakes, did not prevent Macron from handily winning Sunday's election. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

+ CSIS

PM Justin Trudeau says David Vigneault, a senior official with experience at several federal security agencies, will be the next head of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service. Vigneault will assume the post June 19.

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Friday, May 12, 2017 13

Trump concedes he lied about why he fired Comey

POLITICS

U.S. president abandons his rationale for the decision

Over and over, for two days, U.S. President Donald Trump, Vice-President Mike Pence and the rest of their administration said Trump fired FBI director James Comey only at the recommendation of a senior official in the Department of Justice.

Trump conceded Thursday that they were all lying.

Abandoning his entire public rationale for the stunning decision on Tuesday, Trump told NBC anchor Lester Holt that he was planning to fire Comey even before he met with Attorney General Jeff Sessions and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein.

"He's a showboat, he's a grandstander. The FBI has been in turmoil. You know that, I know that, everybody knows that," Trump told Holt in an interview.



U.S. President Donald Trump appears on NBC on Thursday. SCREENGRAB

His comments deepen the credibility crisis facing an administration that has made lying a habit. And they further call into question the democratic legitimacy of his decision to terminate the man in charge of an investigation into whether his campaign associates colluded with Russian meddling in the presidential election.

The administration had implausibly insisted that Trump had grown dismayed about Comey's

unfair treatment of Hillary Clinton last year — that he was merely agreeing with the independent concerns Rosenstein expressed to him in a meeting on Monday and in a written memo.

In Trump's own letter to Comey, he said he was "accepting" a recommendation from Rosenstein and Sessions.

But Trump gave an entirely different explanation to Holt.

"I was going to fire Comey. My decision," he said. "It was not — I



Former FBI director James Comey. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

was going to fire Comey. There's no good time to do it, by the way."

In another remarkable revelation in the interview — for which there is no current proof — Trump said he asked Comey directly to tell him, if "possible," whether he is under investigation. Comey, he said, told him he is not. Anonymous Comey associates have told U.S. media outlets that Comey never told Trump he was not being investigated.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

COMMISSION

Executive order targets claims of voter fraud

President Donald Trump signed an executive order Thursday launching a commission to review alleged voter fraud and voter suppression, building upon his unsubstantiated claims that millions of people voted illegally in the 2016 election.

The White House said the president's "Advisory Commission on Election Integrity" would examine allegations of improper voting and fraudulent voter registration in states and across the nation. Vice-President Mike Pence will chair the panel and Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach will be vice chair of the commission, which will report back to Trump by 2018.

Trump has alleged, without

evidence, that 3 million to 5 million people voted illegally in his 2016 election against Democrat Hillary Clinton. He has vowed since the start of his administration to investigate voter fraud, a process that has been delayed for months.

Democrats and voting rights groups called the panel a sham, arguing there are few, if any, credible allegations of significant voter fraud.

"The sole purpose of this commission is to propagate a myth and to give encouragement to Republican governors and state legislators to increase voter suppression," said Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who challenged Clinton for the Democratic presidential nomination. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No interference will be tolerated: New FBI chief



Andrew McCabe at a Senate Intelligence Committee hearing in Washington on Thursday. AP

On the spot as the FBI's new acting director, Andrew McCabe assured senators Thursday he would alert them to any effort to interfere with the investigation into Russia's election meddling and possible ties with President Donald Trump's campaign.

Trump's firing of FBI Director James Comey on Tuesday

has led Democrats and others to raise concerns about the future of the investigation. But McCabe, speaking publicly for the first time since his former boss' ouster, said there has been "no effort to impede our investigation."

"You cannot stop the men and women of the FBI from doing the right thing," he

said. He also said he would not inform the White House about developments in the probe.

Days before he was fired, Comey requested more resources to pursue his investigation, U.S. officials said, fueling concerns that Trump was trying to undermine the probe. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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China's 'new Silk Road' stirs unease

In a mountain valley in Kashmir, plans are underway for Chinese engineers guarded by Pakistani forces to expand the lofty Karakoram Highway in a project that is stirring diplomatic friction with India.

The work is part of a sprawling Chinese initiative to build a

"new Silk Road" of ports, railways and roads to expand trade in a vast arc of countries across Asia, Africa and Europe. The initiative is in many ways natural for China, the world's biggest trader. But governments from Washington to Moscow to New Delhi worry Beijing also is trying

to build its own political influence and erode theirs.

India is unhappy Chinese state-owned companies are working in the Pakistani-held part of Kashmir, the Himalayan region claimed by both sides. Indian leaders see that as endorsing Pakistani control. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Democratic Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney addressed Republican Rep. John Faso's constituents after Faso failed to attend a town-hall style meeting to address health-care questions. GETTY IMAGES

Health-care vote dogs GOP rookie

UPSTATE NEW YORK

'He promised he would take care of us,' constituent says

The patrons at the cafe next door want him out. A rival congressman has "adopted" his district. And more than a half dozen Democrats are preparing to run against him.

On the job little more than four months, Republican Rep. John Faso is facing a political firestorm in his own upstate New York backyard that threatens to consume his first term in Congress just as it begins.

The cause? He is among 217 Republicans who voted last week for a health-care bill that analysts say would cause 24 million people to lose insurance over the next decade, including tens of thousands of people in his rural district two hours north of

New York City. Worse, critics say, the bill weakens protections for people with pre-existing conditions, even after Faso promised to safeguard coverage for such people in an emotional embrace — caught on video — with a seriously ill constituent.

"He hugged me and he promised he would take care of us," said Andrea Mitchell, a 35-year-old mother of two who has suffered multiple strokes and has a benign tumour in her brain.

"Whether or not he intended to lie and deceive his constituents, he did do that," she told The Associated Press this week. "I don't think there's any chance that Faso will be re-elected."

As a freshman in a swing district, Faso was a top Democratic target even before the health-care fallout. He is now considered one of the most vulnerable Republican incumbents in the nation as the GOP works to navigate the messy politics of an unpopular health-care plan 18 months before the midterm elections.

Faso defiantly defends his vote. In an interview, he dismissed key findings from the Congressional Budget Office predicting widespread health insurance losses and higher health-care costs for the elderly in some cases.

Like many of his Republican colleagues, Faso has largely avoided town hall-style meetings with constituents as the health-care debate rages across the country.

He attended a political fundraiser in Albany on Monday night instead of a health-care town hall in his district organized by Democrats that attracted several hundred people.

A congressman from a neighbouring district, Democratic Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, addressed Faso's constituents for more than two hours.

"Where the heck is your congressman?" Maloney asked before taking several questions about the health-care plan. He added, "He may be upset that I am in his district. But I will just point out that he is not." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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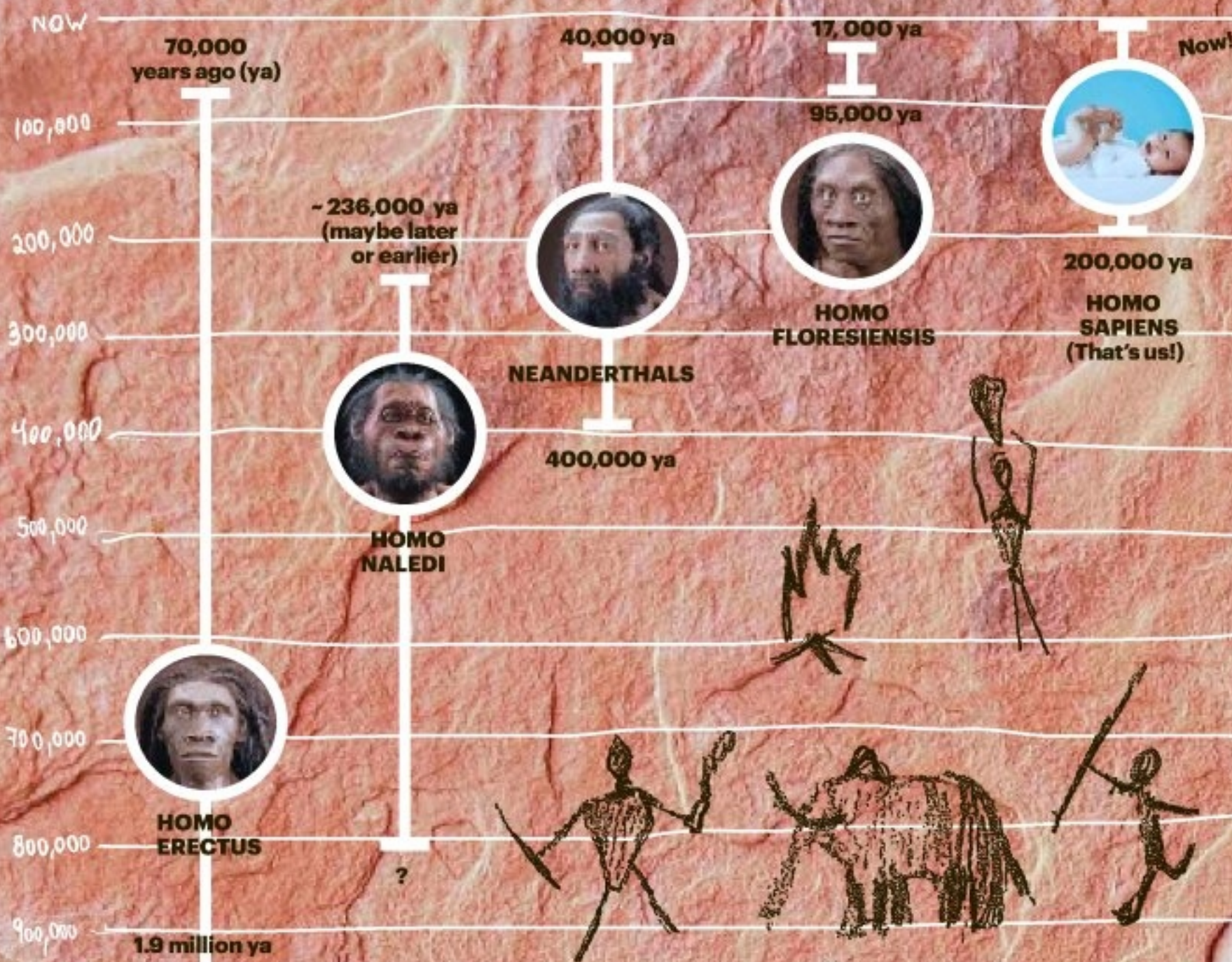
Your essential science news

Fountain of youth If you're trying to look younger, forget smiling and wear a shocked expression instead, says a new study

DECODED by Genna Buck and Andrés Plana

THE FANTASTIC HUMAN FAMILY

The "March of Progress" image, where the knuckle-dragging ape transitions to upright modern man, doesn't tell the whole story. For much of our species' history, *Homo sapiens* co-existed with other close relatives in the genus *Homo*. Like us, they were tool-makers, fire-controllers, maybe even storytellers. But they weren't *us*, exactly. And now our family tree has a new branch.



THE NEW KID: HOMO NALEDI

In 2013, a huge cave of fossils belonging to a previously unknown, extinct human relative was found in South Africa. The species was named **Homo naledi**. A chemical analysis published this week in the journal *eLife* found the bones are between 236,000 and 335,000 years old. This poses a big puzzle: Naledi shares some features with modern humans, like delicate wrists and nimble hands suited for making tools. But its brain is half the size of ours and much of its anatomy resembles human ancestors from two million years ago. No one is sure yet if naledi is a primitive human relative that survived an unusually long time, a hybrid of some kind, or something else entirely. But the paper's authors write that the species "possibly lived at the same time, and in the same place, as modern humans." **Here are some other relatives we walked the earth with, once upon an (approximate) time.**

FINDINGS

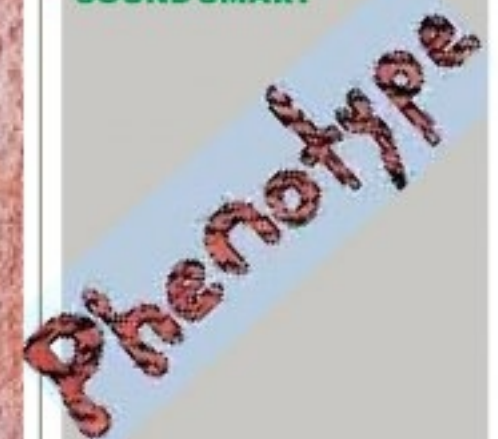
Your week in science



HAIR-RACING SCHEME

Researchers in France are taking motorsport down a notch. Last month, six teams of nanotechnologists built race cars the size of a single molecule and went head-to-head on top of a head. Well, on a track smaller than the width of a human hair.

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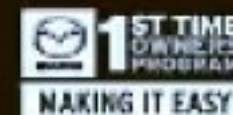
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Taming the dog and pony show

IN FOCUS

On media duty, King Arthur's main men are sharp as swords

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada



Guy Ritchie's films have entertained me for years but I'm afraid he didn't find me very interesting.

The incident happened during my press day with Ritchie and Charlie Hunnam, the director and star of *King Arthur: Legend of the Sword*. I first spoke with them for television. Hunnam answered my opening question about the film *Excalibur*, a precursor to their movie, enthusiastically. But I could feel Ritchie disengage. He sat back and went into autopilot, answering my questions by rote. The rest of the interview flew by in a flurry of quips and tossed off answers.

Half-an-hour later I sat with them again to do a longer interview for print.

"I'm glad we can make amends," said Hunnam as I came in the room. "It seemed like you wanted to have a proper conversation and we were having a bit of a jolly up."

The whole experience was an example of the yin and yang of movie promotion. The yin was Ritchie, an intense man who refers to the walking a red carpet as "a dog and pony show" before adding that's not what he's here for.

The yang is Hunnam, an engaging actor who said, "We don't make these things to live on in obscurity, we make them with the hope that people will see them and this is one of the ways we can help mani-



Charlie Hunnam (inset) is the yang to his *King Arthur* director Guy Ritchie's yin — when it comes to promotional work. CONTRIBUTED

fest that."

The duo have been all over the world talking to media people with perfectly coiffed hair and big smiles, answering the same questions on repeat. By the time I get them there's nothing new to ask about their update of the Arthurian legend. But there is an unspoken contract between my interview subjects and me.

Whether it's for television or for the paper you hold in your

hands, the deal is the same. They say something interesting and I report it. They get publicity and I get a story that my audience will hopefully enjoy.

As Ritchie sat with his arms folded across his chest, I thought about our "contract" and the difference between the two men.

Despite his tabloid appeal — for a time the British press made a sport of reporting on him — Ritchie strikes me as a private person. He's more interested in what he'll be working on next than the film he spent years making and has now signed off on. Or perhaps it's that, as a director, he's used to being in control and in these situations he has to cede power

to the interviewer.

"We both know why we're doing it," Ritchie says, "but the red carpet last night, I'll tell you, I felt soulless after that. After ten minutes get me off there because it takes me hours to recover."

Hunnam, the performer, is immediately warm and open. When Ritchie talks about losing patience on press days Hun-

nam jokes, "Guy Ritchie leaves the room and Johnny Nasty shows up."

Luckily, Johnny Nasty never showed. By the end of our time together the ice broke, Ritchie's arms unfolded and he smiled. I'm not sure what happened other than he seemed to warm up to me when we talked generally about film and not specifically about *King Arthur*.

We traded stories, discussed *King Arthur*, an actor's connection to their director and not being imprisoned by fear. Maybe it was just me but for a moment it felt like we were talking over a beer in a bar and not fulfilling our respective contractual duties. It was, in his words, a little less of a dog and pony show.

"I feel more satisfied now," said Hunnam as I left and another press person walked into the room to repeat the process. "I really felt bad after the [television] interview [with you]. I thought, 'Man, that's a serious cat and we really just f-ed around for four minutes.' I'm glad we got into some of the nitty-gritty."

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Snatched ★★★★★
King Arthur: Legend of the Sword ★★★★★
The Wall ★★★★★
Bon cop, bad cop 2 ★★★★★
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A leading man, but without all of the hassles of fame

Brendan Gleeson on still finding inspiration in his many diverse characters



Steve Gow
For Metro Canada



Brendan Gleeson doesn't have the hassles of most Hollywood leading men. Bulky, gruff-looking and beaming a thick Irish brogue, the acclaimed thespian rarely even gets approached in public.

"The Harry Potter thing was just such a huge thing I suppose," admitted the man behind the fantasy franchises' Mad-Eye Moody. "But luckily enough, I was in enough get-up that people don't recognize me immediately."

Gleeson hasn't just averted the public's attention through prosthetics and extensive make-up however.

After starring in over 50 movies as everything from a Newfoundland fisherman to Winston Churchill, the versatile artist has disappeared into so many roles that he's become one of cinema's most sought-after character actors.

"I have to be honest with you, I bore myself," admitted Gleeson about his extensive range of characters. "I'm 25 years doing it so I'm sure I'm repeating

myself (but) I love variety, I like the difference and finding out things. I like to be confronted with stuff I don't already know."

For his latest project, Gleeson certainly learned a lot about a slice of history previously unknown to him. After all, *Alone in Berlin* cast the renowned actor as a German factory worker who covertly became a Nazi protester after the death of his son in the Second World War.

"I do think that World War II is a place that would benefit from being muddled up a little bit in the sense that not everybody was a hero or a villain," explained Gleeson of the moral drama about a remarkable real-life couple that opposed Nazism by placing propagandist postcards around Berlin opposing Hitler.

While the couple's dissension may have had limited success in the history books, their futile struggle against the Nazi regime was not lost on Gleeson.

"I'm a great believer in the fact that given the chance, a human being wishes to be a decent one and the more we can look at somebody like the Quangels, it's an inspiration," said Gleeson about the film's fictional version of Otto and Elise Hampel.

GLEESON'S WISH LIST

Brendan Gleeson has worked with everyone from Martin Scorsese to Steven Spielberg. So who's left for the Irish thespian?

"The Coens for one," said Gleeson of the legendary sibling filmmakers.

"It's a sign of great creative forces when you know all the smaller parts have been given the proper creative life. It's what I love about the Coens (so) I'm

hoping I work with them at some point."

Indie Vs Blockbusters

"You really have to make a kind of a splash in some of the bigger films to be taken seriously for any of the smaller films," said Gleeson.

"(But) in terms of when I have choice of work, I only go where the work is good."

STEVE GOW/METRO

"The apparent ineffectiveness of the protest, I think that's a bigger statement because it means that they were adhering to what was best of themselves."

It wasn't just the Hampels' tale that appealed to Gleeson however.

After a quarter of a century of moviemaking, the 62-year-old talent is also beginning to feel a personal responsibility to relate stories of the past to younger generations.

Gleeson himself has four sons, two of whom have followed his career path. Eldest son Domhnall has reeled off a string of strong

performances in major hits including *The Revenant*, *The Force Awakens* and *Brooklyn*.

"I'm not sure their world will be different from that world for too much longer the way things are going," laughs Gleeson of the next generation.

"(But in) World War II, there's a certain innocence in terms of the goodies and the baddies that allows us to watch heroism without having to feel like we have to second guess it."

"Wars now are so complicated in terms of the right and the wrong that it's very difficult to find unsullied heroism."

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REVIEW

Humour mostly held hostage by lazy screenplay

Peter Howell
life@metronews.ca

Imagine the Hollywood pitch meeting where adventure comedy *Snatched* got the green light.

Filmmaker: "Amy Schumer and Goldie Hawn, together at last! Two generations, two funny ladies! Goldie is ending her 15-year screen retirement for this!"

Studio suit: "But the script has them being kidnapped for ransom money in South America by very bad hombres! This actually happens to people! It's not funny!"

Filmmaker: "We'll surround them with wacky actors like Wanda Sykes, Joan Cusack and Ike Barinholtz of *The Mindy Project*! It'll be great!"

Whether or not something like this actually occurred, *Snatched* is what we get. It follows the above template, except for the bit about being great, which it most certainly isn't.

The movie earns a few chuckles, but humour is largely held hostage by a lewd and lazy screenplay that wanders like Billy

Snatched kidnaps laughter

Amy Schumer plays Emily, a naïve slacker, and Goldie Hawn plays Linda, a homebody cat lady, in *Snatched*. Hijinks ensue when the mother-daughter duo travel to Ecuador. CONTRIBUTED

in *The Family Circus*.

Evidently the studio felt worried enough about *Snatched* that the decision was made to summarize the plot in a few lines of text right off the top, so people don't think anything really bad will occur in the next 90 minutes.

We're left guessing the thoughts of director Jonathan Levine (*50/50*, *The Wackness*)

and screenwriter Katie Dippold (*Spy*, *The Heat*), because there's no discernible method to their madness.

Schumer is Emily, a naïve slacker who finds herself unattached, having been fired from her dead-end job and dumped by her jerk of a boyfriend.

Problem: Emily and the jerk were about to go on vacation

together to South America. The tickets are non-refundable.

Solution: Travel with mom! Even though mom Linda (Hawn) is a homebody cat lady who considers foreign travel a ticket to trouble. She's almost as anti-social as Emily's pampered agoraphobic brother Jeffrey (Barinholtz).

After the usual bluster — "You

don't do anything fun anymore!" — Emily and Linda find themselves sipping drinks and squabbling at a resort in Ecuador. They meet a zany pair of fellow travelers, played by Wanda Sykes and Joan Cusack, who are actually pretty funny together.

Emily and Linda also encounter the aforementioned bad hombres, led by the creepy Morgado

JOB SWAP

Schumer's court date

Amy Schumer may not be giving up comedy for a legal career, yet she took a turn in Judge Judy's seat during a Tuesday visit to the set of the syndicated courtroom show.

In a video, Schumer sits in the judge's chair and takes papers from bailiff Petri Byrd.

Byrd also posted a clip to his Instagram calling Schumer "Her Funniness."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

(Oscar Jaenada), who considers them easy prey for a ransom scam.

Hijinks ensue, cautiously. Emily and Linda actually are in peril, from dangerous dudes and the encroaching jungle. Some blood is spilled.

Needless to say, *Snatched* isn't going to win any cultural sensitivity or tourism awards from South America.

But it also makes North Americans look bad, especially employees of the U.S. State Department, who couldn't care less about the plight of kidnapped Emily and Linda. *Snatched* isn't very funny, but at least it's broad-minded about its boorishness.

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Pandora arrives in Florida

ATTRACTION

Remember the movie Avatar? Disney sure hopes you do

You may not have thought much about the 2009 movie Avatar over the past eight years, but Disney sure has.

The Magic Kingdom is wagering a reported half-billion dollars that you and zillions of other people will line up for new theme park attractions based on the movie's bioluminescent world of Pandora.

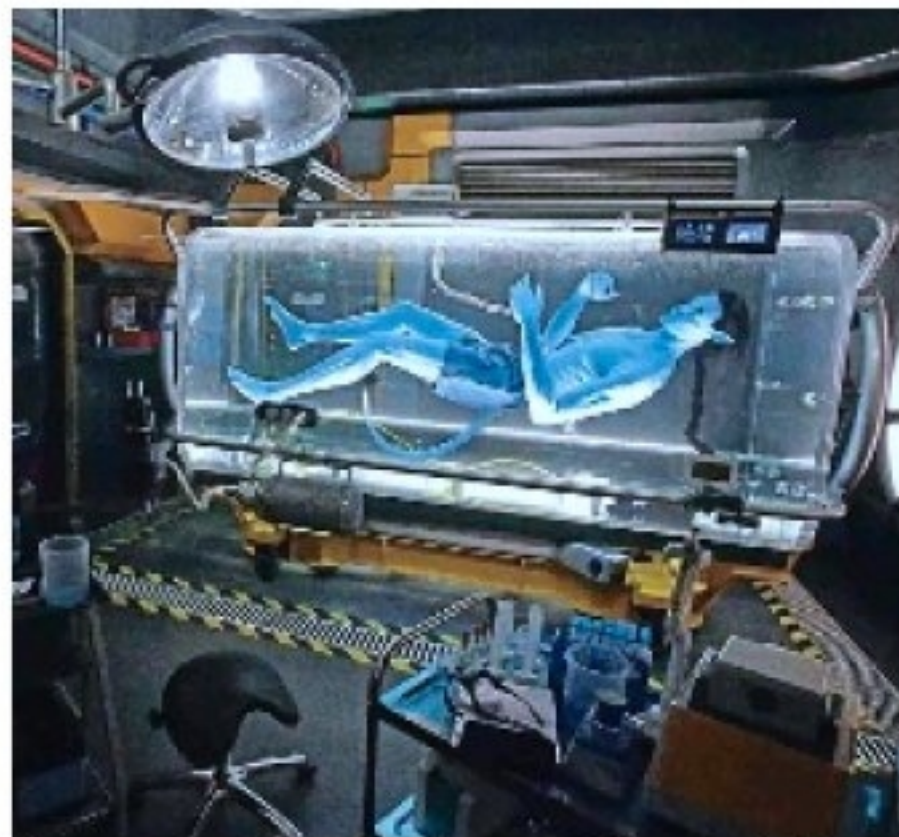
It's a major gamble, even by Disney standards. While the movie smashed box-office records thanks to its dazzling 3D effects and higher 3D ticket prices, it's also left little but a fading echo in pop-culture consciousness.

"I've never seen anybody ever walking down street wearing an Avatar t-shirt," says Martin Lewison, a theme park expert and business management professor at Farmingdale State College in New York. "There's no real emotional connection with Avatar among the public despite the movie being so popular."

Cultural plunder

But theme parks are big business, and Disney is counting on what its executives call Avatar Land (the official name is Pandora: World of Avatar) to help keep that engine humming.

In the fiscal year that ended in October, parks and resorts



Director James Cameron has been promising sequels since the original premiered. Release dates for four have been pushed back again. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

accounted for 31 per cent of Disney's nearly \$56 billion U.S. in revenue, though only 21 per cent of its nearly \$16 billion U.S. in operating profit.

Disney also wants to prove it can turn its newer cultural properties, which include Star Wars and the Marvel superhero franchise, into popular theme-park attractions.

In that, it's basically playing catch-up with rival Universal Studios, which launched a hugely successful Harry Potter theme park in 2010.

Now the big question is whether Disney can pull that off with Avatar Land, or if it's just chasing unobtainium. (Yes, that's an Avatar reference. See?)

Odd property

James Cameron, the mercurial director famous for Titanic and several other blockbusters, has been promising Avatar sequels almost since the original premiered. One had been in development since 2010. Disney licensed the park rights in 2011, when a sequel didn't seem that far off.

Little did Disney know. In 2013, Cameron announced his intention to film three follow-on films simultaneously, for release starting in 2016. But the date was pushed back until 2017, then 2018. In March, Cameron said 2018 was "not happening." In April, he announced the start of production

on four sequels now scheduled to roll out from 2020 to 2025.

That left Disney to plunge ahead on its own with Avatar Land, which opens May 27 at Disney's Animal Kingdom theme park in Florida. If all goes well, the park "will promote the films and the new films will of course circle back and promote the land," Lewison says.

Beating Harry Potter

One big reason the Walt Disney Co. has pushed ahead with Avatar Land — not to mention Star Wars-themed attractions scheduled to open in 2019 — is the rising threat posed by Universal's The Wizarding World of Harry Potter.

In 2015, about 138 million people visited Walt Disney Attractions, up nearly three per cent from the prior year. Universal Parks and Resorts saw less than a third as many visitors — 45 million — but that figure was up nearly 12 per cent, according to the trade group Theme Entertainment Association.

"What Harry Potter did was to become a big public success and financial one as well," says John Gerner, managing director of theme park consulting firm Leisure Business Advisors. "It really set a new bar for our industry."

Of course, Avatar is a very different brand than Harry Potter, which has launched nine feature films to date, including an entirely new series whose second installment is due next year — well before the first Avatar sequel.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Faced with a blockbuster that hardly left an impression, Disney is focussing on the landscape and wildlife of Pandora — rather than characters — to sell the rides. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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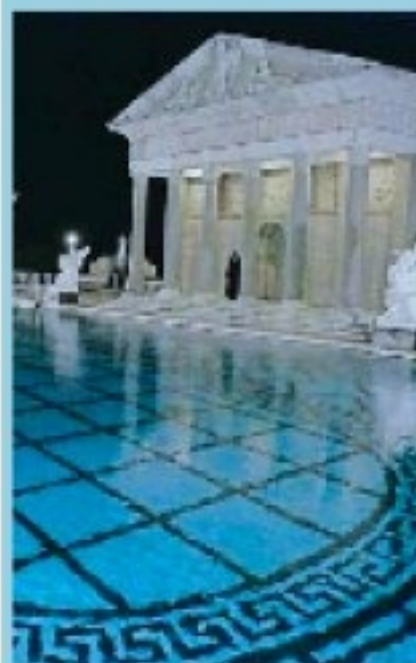
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TRAVEL NOTES HEARST CASTLE POOL OPENING, OHIO TOURISM IS GROWING, VIEWS OF THE AUGUST ECLIPSE FROM WYOMING

Pool season almost here at Hearst Castle

Visitors to Hearst Castle on the central California coast will see its extravagant Neptune Pool full of water this year. A signature element of the palatial home that early 20th century media mogul William Randolph Hearst built, the pool was drained in 2014 and repairs have been underway for over a year. Restoration of the 345,000-gallon pool should be complete by late summer or fall. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ohio tourism up

Data from a study shows continued growth in Ohio's tourism industry last year. Direct visitor spending in 2016 was estimated at \$34 billion, an increase of about a billion dollars from 2015. Tourism visits to and within Ohio increased from 207 million in 2015 to 212 million. Nearly 42 million of those were overnight trips. Overnight visitors spend, on average, more than three times the amount of daytrip visitors. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



ISTOCK

Eclipse could boost tourism in Wyoming

An estimated 350,000 people could visit Wyoming to watch the first total solar eclipse to be seen from the mainland United States in almost four decades. The state should have ideal viewing conditions; places where the Aug. 21 eclipse will last the longest — about 2 minutes and 20 seconds — include the cities of Casper and Riverton and the town of Jackson. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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SEAN PLUMMER

Superman may fight for truth, justice and the American way, but he was born to a Canadian.

Cartoonist Joe Shuster, the child of Dutch and Ukrainian parents and the cousin of Frank Shuster — one half of the Canadian comedy duo Wayne and Shuster — was born and spent his first decade in Toronto.

It was there that he developed his artistic skills, drawing on the backs of discarded wallpaper rolls (back when paper was expensive) and earning money as a newspaper boy for the Toronto

Daily Star, later the Toronto Star.

He met writer and future collaborator Jerry Siegel in high school when both were 17 and living in Cleveland. The pair started working together and continued after graduation, coming up with what became Superman in the early '30s.

Shuster modeled the Metropolis cityscape after Toronto, while Clark Kent's newspaper, The Daily Planet, was originally named The Daily Star, after Shuster's old employer. Writer Mordecai Richler once called Superman "a perfect expression of the Canadian psyche."



Canadian cartoonist Joe Shuster is known for co-creating the DC Comics character Superman. PHOTOS: TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The true north

In practical terms, the top of the (habitable) world is Alert, Nunavut.

The military outpost is located on the northernmost tip of Ellesmere Island, which is just 807 km distant from the North Pole.

It was named after the HMS Alert, a Royal Navy sloop that was the first ship to make it to the top of Ellesmere Island, in 1875. Darkness and daylight each last five months, with a month of normal days and nights in between. SEAN PLUMMER



Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Major General Glynne Hines and Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor in Alert, Nunavut. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A park bigger than Switzerland



It was created by Parks Canada in 1922 to protect the north's largest remaining herd of roaming wood bison.

Today Wood Buffalo National Park, which straddles the border between Northern Alberta and the southern Northwest Territories, protects a large swath

of the Northern Boreal Plains. How large, you ask? It is Canada's biggest national park, taking up more land than all of Switzerland.

It was designated a World UNESCO Heritage Site in 1983, and wood bison continue to roam there.

SEAN PLUMMER





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EXPRESS

The Russian Hockey Federation announced that Alex Ovechkin had been playing through a lower-body injury that required pain-numbing injections



Greatness will have to wait

2017 NHL PLAYOFFS
SEASON WRAPUP

McDavid, Draisaitl & Co. will have time to get it right

Oilers general manager Peter Chiarelli came into this season hopeful, but nowhere near certain, that his team would end a decade-long playoff drought.

"I guess, never say never," said Chiarelli weeks before the beginning of training camp.

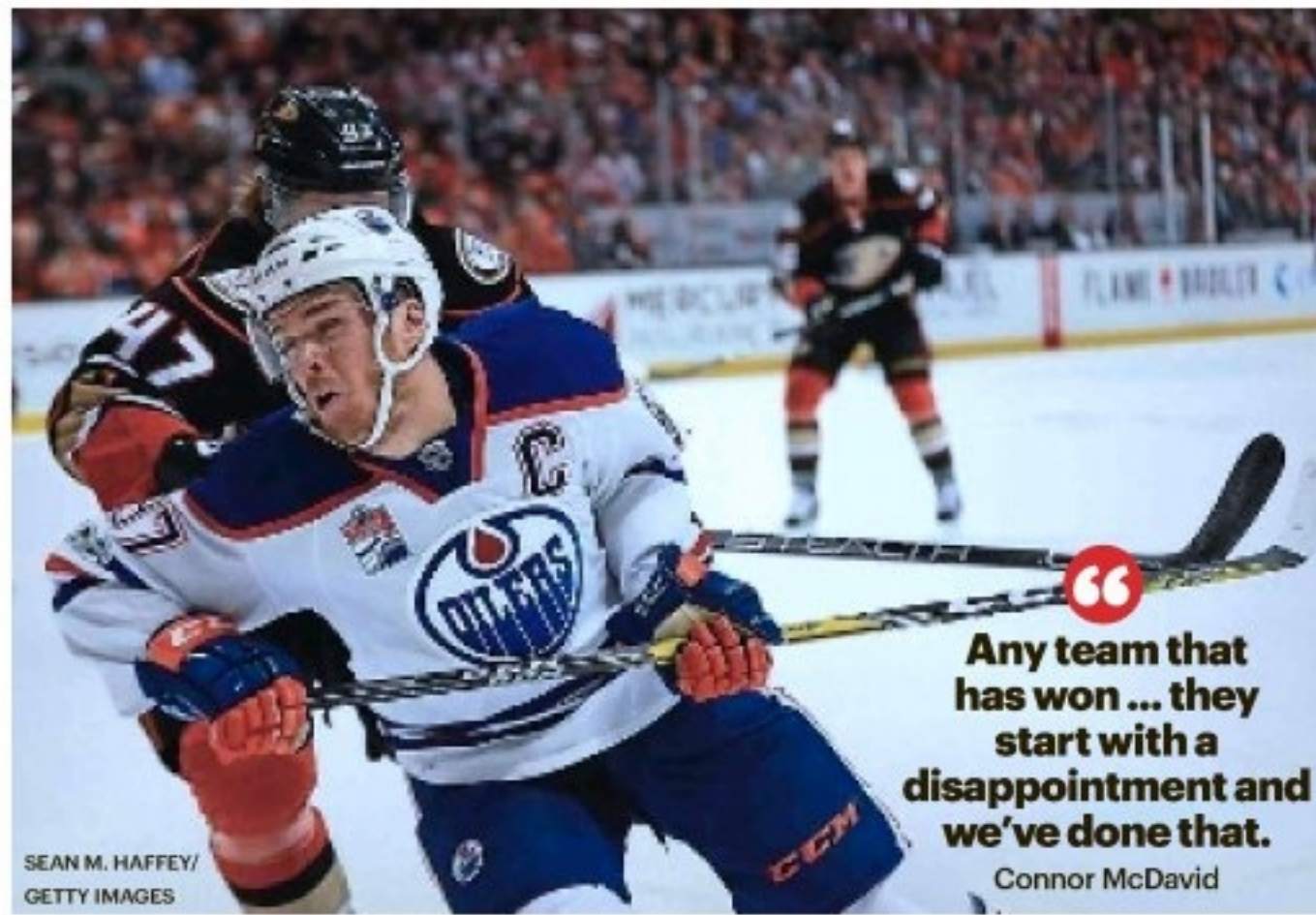
Edmonton didn't only make the post-season for the first time since 2006 — jumping an amazing 33 points in the standings from a year earlier — but nearly cracked the Western Conference final before falling just short in a seven-game, second-round series with the Anaheim Ducks.

It's likely this season will be looked upon one day as the point when the Oilers jumped from league laughingstock and annual No. 1 overall pick-maker to legitimate Stanley Cup contender.

Leading that ascent is Connor McDavid, who became the third-youngest scoring champ in NHL history this season behind only Sidney Crosby and Wayne Gretzky. McDavid, who also became the youngest captain ever last fall, was the only player in the league to crack 100 points.

He also topped all others with 70 assists, 71 even-strength points and 30 multi-point games and should capture his first Hart trophy as MVP.

Back in the fall, Gretzky called McDavid, who turned 20 in January, the best 19-year-old he'd ever seen. "I'm truly amazed at how good he is," Gretzky said.



SEAN M. HAFEEY/
GETTY IMAGES

“Any team that has won ... they start with a disappointment and we've done that.”

Connor McDavid

McDavid, the Great One added, had “one extra gear that I don't think I've ever seen on a hockey player.”

He'll only get better from here, as will his running mate for the better part of the season, Leon Draisaitl.

The big 21-year-old German was a force on McDavid's right wing, finishing eighth in league scoring with a career-best 77 points. His ascension into a bona-fide star continued in the playoffs with a team-leading 16 points — many of which came

playing apart from McDavid.

It's possible head coach Todd McLellan will keep the two stars apart moving forward as a means of deepening an Edmonton lineup which should soon include 19-year-old Finn Jesse Puljujarvi, the fourth-overall pick in 2016.

While they threatened in some ways this year, pushing the Ducks to the limit, Edmonton's Cup window should open for real next year and there's an argument to be made that it

might be the club's most opportune time to strike — what with McDavid's entry-level contract expiring in the summer of 2018.

First up this summer is determining how long and how much to pay Draisaitl on his second NHL deal. Beyond that, the Oilers will need to decide if keeping impending free agent Kris Russell around makes sense on a solid, if unspectacular defence led by Adam Larsson and Oscar Klefbom.

Further to that is finding a more suitable backup goal-

tender for Cam Talbot.

The 29-year-old is another primary source of optimism for the future, stabilizing a long-time Achilles heel of the organization since he came aboard in 2015.

Consider that 25 different goaltenders started at least one game for the Oilers from the start of the 2007-08 season (the beginning of the post-season drought) until Talbot's arrival before the start of last season. He was consistently excellent in his second year with club — he had a save percentage of .918 or higher in every full month but one — despite the heaviest workload in hockey, which saw him start 73 games and face more than 2,100 shots.

Growth was evident elsewhere under McLellan, including top-notch special teams and improved possession of the puck.

The Oilers made the kind of step forward Chiarelli was hopeful of before the season. The former Cup-winning GM of the Boston Bruins thought it was important for his youngish team to get into the playoffs so they could see “how hard it is” and “how fun it is” too.

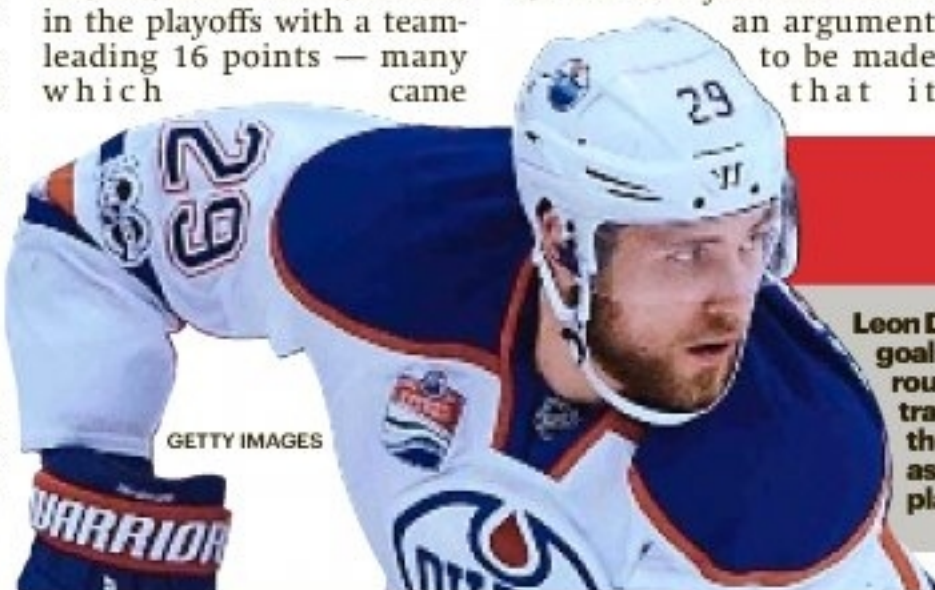
McDavid echoed those thoughts to reporters after the Game 7 loss to Anaheim, noting all the positives the Oilers could take from the year as well as the end of the “experience question” which dogged a group lacking in playoff exposure.

He concurred that this was only the start of something positive.

“We took a huge step forward. If we told you that we would've taken the Ducks seven in the second series in September I don't think anyone would've believed us for a second.”

“But we'll be back,” McDavid added.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



GETTY IMAGES

16

Leon Draisaitl led the Oilers with six goals and 10 assists through two rounds and 13 playoff games. He trailed only Evgeni Malkin who has the NHL lead with five goals and 13 assists through the Penguins' 12 playoff games in two rounds.

IN BRIEF

Spurs torch Rockets in Houston to advance

The San Antonio Spurs eliminated the sluggish James Harden and Houston Rockets with a 114-75 victory in Game 6 on Thursday night, and they didn't even need Kawhi Leonard to do it.

LaMarcus Aldridge had a season-high 34 points and added 12 rebounds in his second big game of the of the series to pick up the scoring slack with Leonard out. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UFC's impatient White pulls plug on GSP-Bisping fight

UFC president Dana White has pulled the plug on Georges St-Pierre's comeback fight against middleweight champion Michael Bisping.

St-Pierre, who has not fought since November 2013, says he is ready to fight after October. White says that's too late.

“We're not waiting for GSP,” White told Fox Sports Australia. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada's Hughes hangs with Players big boys

Canadian rookie Mackenzie Hughes played bogey-free in his debut at The Players Championship and shot 5-under 67 to share the lead with William McGirt after the opening round at TPC Sawgrass in Florida.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jays' Pearce punctures Mariners pitching staff

Steve Pearce hit a three-run homer and Marco Estrada had eight strikeouts over six innings as the Toronto Blue Jays defeated the Seattle Mariners 7-2 on Thursday night at Rogers Centre.

The Blue Jays have won four of their last five games. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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5	8	6	4	2	3	9	7	1
4	2	3	9	7	1	8	5	6
7	1	9	5	6	8	4	3	2
6	4	5	3	1	2	7	9	8
3	9	2	8	5	7	6	1	4
1	7	8	6	9	4	5	2	3
9	3	4	1	8	5	2	6	7
2	5	1	7	4	6	3	8	9
8	6	7	2	3	9	1	4	5



MAKE IT TONIGHT

The Ultimate Coconut Chocolate Banana Bread

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada



PHOTO: MAYA VISNATEI

The search is over! This loaf is the ultimate banana bread combining loads of chocolate, flakey coconut and slivered almonds.

Ready in 1 hour and 10 minutes

Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 55 minutes
Makes: 1 loaf

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup unsalted butter (1 stick)
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 3 bananas, mashed
- 4 tbsp almond milk
- 2 cups spelt flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 cup chocolate chips
- 1/4 cup slivered almonds
- 1/4 cup unsweetened flaked coconut

Directions

1. Preheat your oven to 350 and grease a 9x5 inch loaf pan.
2. Set aside. Cream butter and sugar with a hand blender or stand mixer. Add one egg. Mix in mashed bananas and almond milk.

3. In a separate bowl, whisk flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Add flour mixture in stages to butter mix incorporated after each addition. Fold in the chips, coconut and almond slivers. Pour into prepared baking pan; tapping pan down to make sure it's evenly distributed.

4. Bake in the oven for 50 to 55 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the centre comes out clean. Cool on a rack for a few minutes. Turn out of pan and store in a plastic bag for up to a week.

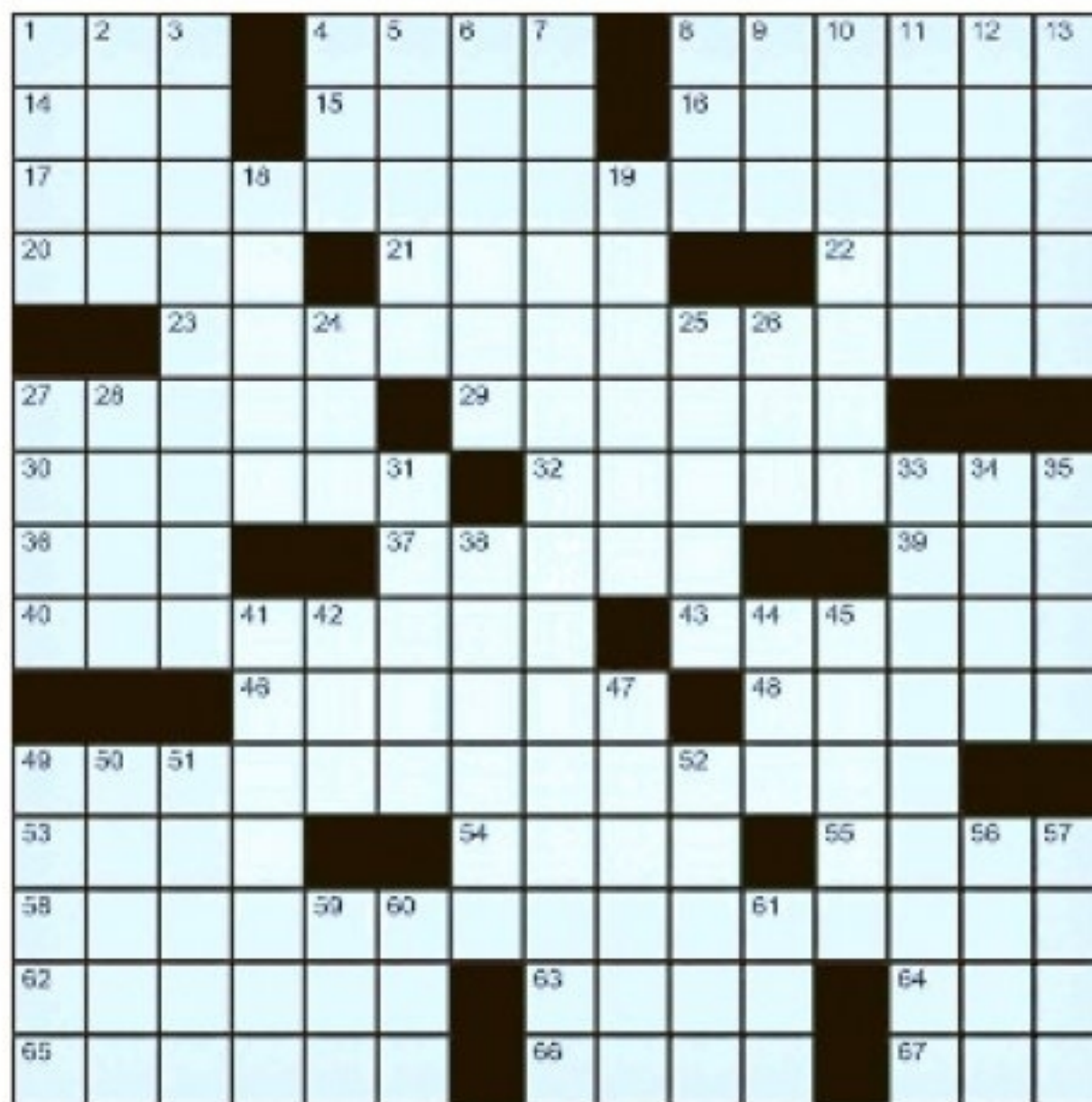
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CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

1. ' _ _ _ for Digby
4. Reckons
8. Least wild
14. Grocery store, e.g.
15. Get set, for short
16. "There _ _ _ many people!" (It's so crowded!)
17. Bre-X, basically: 3 wds.
20. Latin hymn: "Dies _ _"
21. Ms. Russell of "Felicity"
22. " _ _ Miracle" by Culture Club
23. Narrating protagonist in Canadian writer Robertson Davies' 1970 novel Fifth Business: 2 wds.
27. Room-enough-to-fit requirement
29. Retro album's protection
30. Author: French
32. Theatrical production back-drop: 2 wds.
36. "Diamonds _ Forever" (1971)
37. Impede, in law
39. Mon's weekly follower
40. Ukraine: Odesa = 'The Pearl of the _ _'
43. Canadian sweets shoppe, Laura _
46. Detect that noise: 2 wds.
48. Old El Paso creations
49. One might offer ziplining, hiking, water slides, and loads of other fun activities: 2 wds.
53. Barbarian
54. Nero's 1151
55. Night _ (Staying-up-late people)
58. Couch potato's prized techie possession: 2 wds.
62. Ms. Shire's of "Rocky" (1976)



63. Rockefeller Center muralist
64. Olive of cartoons
65. Kiosks
66. Cupid's ancient Greek counterpart
67. OR on-callers

63. Rockefeller Center muralist
64. Olive of cartoons
65. Kiosks
66. Cupid's ancient Greek counterpart
67. OR on-callers

DOWN

1. Techie-sounding prefix
2. Pet bat on "The Munsters"
3. Orange Pekoe brand: 2 wds.
4. Music pace in 60 seconds (acronym)
5. Mr. Estrada's
6. Principles
7. Space-saving access in a multi-level condo: 2 wds.
8. Identify
9. Rover's response!
10. Prosper _ (19th-century French writer)
11. Les _ -Unis (USA)
12. 'The March King',

- John Philip _ (b.1854 - d.1932)
13. NBC's morning show
18. Mr. Bigalow, Male Gigolo
19. Workday hours, _ _ _ five
24. Modern: German
25. Collects, as crops
26. Li'l norm
27. Swedish car
28. Knit one _ two...
31. Convened for a meeting once more
33. Kim of Canadian trio Shaye
34. 2002-debuting coin
35. Mr. Knight's
38. Skincare formulas
41. Gourmet's parsley
42. Mattel guy
44. 7th Greek letter
45. Ricochet shot in billiards
47. Penn & _ (Magic act)
49. Borders
50. Robert of "Goodbye, Mr. Chips" (1939)
51. "There you are!"
52. FOX News host, Judge Jeanine _
56. Space travel distance, for short: 2 wds.
57. Salts, in Sherbrooke
59. 'Arbor' suffix
60. Beatles drummer's initials-sharers
61. Abbr. aliens

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
You are so enthusiastic that you can sell anything to anyone today — your words are like gold! This is a great day for those of you who sell, market, teach, act, write or drive for a living.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
"There's money in them thar hills!" Oh yes, your enthusiasm will attract money to you today. You will do well in all financial negotiations. Ka-ching!

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You can take it to the bank today, because you are powerful. No matter what you do, you will come out smelling like a rose. Use this strong energy for creating good in the world around you.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You appreciate the behind-the-scenes support you get from others at this time. Something good and beneficial will come from this. Look for ways to make this happen.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Your ability to deal with others today, especially in groups, is stellar! Today you are a natural leader, which is why everyone will take their cue from you. Ah, maestro!

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Today your ambition is aroused. You will act with skillful means, which is why this is an excellent day to talk to bosses, parents, teachers, VIPs and the police. You look like a winner!

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
This is a fast-paced day full of detours and exciting changes! Even your mind is full of quickly changing thoughts and clever ideas.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Travel plans totally appeal to you today. This is the perfect day to discuss matters related to publishing, the media, medicine, the law and higher education.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You couldn't pick a better day to discuss inheritances and shared property because everyone probably will be fair; nevertheless, you are in a winning position. Oh, yes! Do something.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You will be extremely productive at work today. You have great energy and wonderful intuition about how to use it to get the most bang for your buck. You also feel healthy and vigorous!

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
This is the perfect day for a vacation. It's also a great day to schmooze with your friends and enjoy social outings, sports events and playful activities with children.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Whatever you do at home today will bring about positive results for you. Likewise, this is an excellent day to pursue real-estate deals.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

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